

THE BEAT

Assaulting an Officer Becomes a Felony



Imagine this hypothetical—but possible—scenario: a K-9 officer and his dog are confronted by a dangerous suspect, who injures them both in a scuffle. When the suspect is arrested, he faces felony charges for assaulting the dog—and misdemeanor charges for assaulting the officer.

Until recently, this would have been a true story in the state of Maryland. But thanks to a new bill signed into law last month, that story has changed. Beginning Oct. 1, it will be a felony to cause injury to a law enforcement officer, with penalties of up to 10 years in prison.

The effort to pass this legislation began years ago, with versions of the bill introduced in the General Assembly almost every year since 1999. Each year, the bill failed for one reason or another; one year, the senate and house reached an agreement, but simply ran out of time in the legislative session before the vote.

This year, the bill was introduced by House Speaker Michael Busch and Senate President Michael Miller, whose combined leadership helped ensure passage of the legislation. Police Chief Wayne Livesay, who has served in recent years as president and legislative coordinator for the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA), played a key role in moving the legislation forward.

“This bill has been a top priority for Maryland Chiefs and other law enforcement groups for a number of years,” said Chief Livesay. “We are pleased our lawmakers saw that making this crime a felony was important for officers around the state.”

In addition to the MCPA, other organizations endorsed the legislation, including the Maryland Sheriffs Association and the Fraternal Order of Police, in a true combined effort of both labor and management.

Maryland ranks fourth in assaults on police officers in the U.S., after the population-dense states of California, Florida and Texas. In 2003, the last year for which statistics are available, 3,742 law enforcement officers were assaulted in the line of duty in Maryland.

The new legislation, passed as Senate Bill 47, establishes that a person who intentionally causes physical injury to a law enforcement officer on the job is guilty of a felony. This felony designation impacts sentencing guidelines for judges, enhancing the possibility for increased penalties.

In addition, the new bill covers all injuries to officers, except in the most minor cases. This closes a previous gap, as prior legislative language covered only officers who were “seriously” injured. *By Sherry Llewellyn*



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Chief's Message	2
Police Foundation Award	2
Warm Weather Scams	3
Garage Burglaries	3
Officer of the Month	4
Sniper School	4
Police Memorial Week	5
Explorers' Anniversary	5
Cholesterol Screening	6
New Arrivals	6
Chaplains' Corner	6
Retirees' Beat	7
Fundraising Tug-of-War	7
MCPA Scholarship	8

Howard County Department of Police *Mission Statement*

It is the mission of the Howard County Department of Police to provide a sense of security for the people by protecting life and property, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder, enforcing the law, assisting victims and providing other police-related services as required by the community in a manner consistent with the values of a free society. The Department embraces the tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police—the police being members of the public who devote full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen.

Message from the Chief by Police Chief G. Wayne Livesay

I recently attended a conference on technology in law enforcement and it was truly an eye-opening experience. First, because it made very clear to me that the Howard County Police Department is light-years ahead of many, if not most, other law enforcement agencies in technology. But it also highlighted for me how quickly technology is changing and how we must be forward-thinking to stay ahead.

We are exploring a number of ways to advance technologically. It is our goal to ensure that every sworn member of the department is issued a computer. In fact, our new recruits are receiving computers as they start the academy. We are actively researching ways to enable officers to transmit reports electronically in the field. We have undertaken a pilot project in Northern District patrol, handling MARS reports on the computer. We are making progress and hope to have a system in place for all reports in the not-too-distant future.

This type of system would require that all cars be equipped with Internet access, which is our goal. This access would allow officers not only to transmit reports, but also receive photos of missing children or wanted subjects. Officers also could access e-mail from inside their vehicles.

The department is working to address the ways in which officers get information on the road. All cars are now equipped with computers, which will be programmed for our "air mobile" system. Air mobile,

which utilizes antennas at our district stations, will automatically download information to police computers as cars pull into the stations' parking lots. These updates will provide invaluable information to officers in the field.

We also are currently testing a voice-activated system in our computers. This would allow officers to communicate with their computers verbally and receive automated voice response. For example, an officer could run a tag without having to manually type the tag number into the keyboard.

Our police facilities will see technology upgrades as well. We will implement a new entry system for our buildings, using proximity cards. We will no longer be using a number-entry system, which will help us improve security and better track access to our facilities. We also will purchase a new ABS system for booking with homeland security money. Although the booking center is now under the direction of Corrections, we are buying the system because we will benefit from it so significantly. The new system will enable booking officers to take palm prints; the current system only takes fingerprints.

It is a time of change for law enforcement agencies, with technology being used in so many new ways. It will continue to be a priority for this agency to lead the way in technological advances.

Police Foundation Awards Scholarships

The Howard County Police Foundation recently announced the winners of their two annual college scholarships. Each year, the \$1,000 scholarships are awarded to graduating high school seniors. One scholarship is awarded to the son or daughter of an active or retired HCPD employee. The other is awarded to a student in the Howard County school system.

Ashley Cook, the daughter of HCPD employee Joanie Cook, was selected for the police employee scholarship. Chief Livesay presented the award to Ashley on May 27 during a ceremony at Ashley's high school, Mount de Sales Academy. Ashley has been accepted to the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and will be studying Business Communications and Pre-Med. She is graduating with a 3.99 GPA and has received four other scholarships.

Centennial High School student Seth Manoff was selected as the general scholarship winner. He will be studying to work in law enforcement. Congratulations to both of these outstanding students! *By PFC David Proulx*



Ashley Cook, daughter of HCPD employee Joanie Cook

Beware of Warm Weather Scams

With the warm weather approaching, now is the time when homeowners typically look to repair, renew and refresh their homes and yards. This is also the time of year when unscrupulous individuals often prey upon trusting citizens by posing as home improvement contractors.

Home improvement fraud is the most common scam in the country, according to the National Association of Consumer Agency Administrators and the Consumer Federation of America. Once good money is paid for a bad decision, it is nearly impossible to get any money-whole or part-refunded.

The police department advises homeowners to hire only licensed contractors and not fly-by-night people who knock on doors soliciting work. If you are dealing with a reputable contractor, you will be able to obtain a written contract with a specific price. While it is also a good idea to obtain references for the home improvement contractor you are hiring, those “references” mean nothing if you don’t know or trust the people you are calling—you could be calling a friend or relative of the contractor.

Even checking with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) may not always yield information about dishonest contractors. Not all victims of bogus contractors contact the BBB to file a complaint. Instead, homeowners can call the county courthouse and determine if any lawsuits have been filed against a contractor for obtaining payment in advance and not completing jobs.

In Maryland, all home improvement contractors must be licensed by the Maryland Home Improvement Commission (MHIC). Contact this agency at 410-230-6309 to verify that the contractor and any subcontractors are currently licensed. Also check for a complaint history. Do not use an unlicensed contractor, as your recourse will be limited.

There are some tips on how to avoid being victimized by fraudulent home improvement contractors:

- Be sure that your contract is very specific as to the work to be performed and that it includes the Three-Day-Right-to-Cancel clause, as required by law.
- By law, the contractor may ask for only one-third of the contract price as a down payment at the time the contract is signed. Do not pay for the entire job in advance and do not pay with cash.
- The MHIC requires that the contractor obtain required building permits from the county. Do not obtain the permits yourself. You will limit the contractor’s liability and make yourself liable.
- Do not sign a completion certificate or pay until the job is completed, inspected and all corrections are made.

Recently, law enforcement agencies have been made aware of established groups of people known as “travelers” who target elderly and retirement home communities. These con artists offer to spray roofs and driveways with sealers, but use chemicals that can actually cause damage. Homeowners should be careful when they are approached about having this type of work done to their homes.

Contact the Howard County Office of Consumer Affairs at 410-313-6420 for more information about protecting yourself from being the victim of a scam. *By Ret. PFC Denise Walk*

Garages Targeted in Warm Weather

During the warm spring and summer months, police receive an increased number of reports of burglaries from open and unlocked garages and sheds.

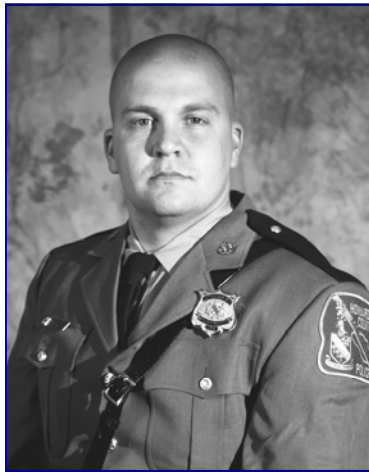
Residents frequently leave garage doors open while doing yard work or spending time around the house. Burglars often use this opportunity to steal property from the garage or gain access to the interior of the home.

Always keep all doors, including your garage door, closed and locked. Ensure that the door leading from your garage to the interior of your home also is locked.

Also, be sure to always lock your vehicles and remove valuable property. Be aware that a garage door opener in an unlocked car is like a key to your home.

Remember to report suspicious activity or people by calling 911.

Howard County Police Officer of the Month



Police Officer Edward Thatcher March 2005

Police Officer Edward Thatcher has been selected as police officer of the month for March 2005. During the month, Officer Thatcher produced outstanding patrol statistics, which included 21

arrests and an armed robbery apprehension; he also was credited with saving a citizen's life.

Early in the month, Officer Thatcher responded to an Ellicott City business for a medical emergency after a customer collapsed. Officer Thatcher arrived on the scene before paramedics and performed rescue breathing until they arrived. His life-saving efforts assisted the medics, who were able to quickly stabilize the patient before going to the hospital.

In three separate cases, Officer Thatcher made arrests for disorderly conduct. In one case, he arrested a disorderly man after responding to a reported fight at a bar.

In another case, Officer Thatcher arrested an intoxicated female after she became disorderly at a shopping center. Finally, Officer Thatcher arrested a man while he was making an unrelated citizen contact.

Later in the month, Officer Thatcher located a suspect vehicle wanted in connection with multiple robberies. Officer Thatcher pursued the suspects, who refused to stop the vehicle. Several agencies assisted in the pursuit and the eventual capture of the robbery suspects. They were subsequently charged in connection with multiple robberies in Howard County and neighboring jurisdictions.

Throughout the month, Officer Thatcher aggressively patrolled his beat and conducted traffic enforcement. He made 73 traffic stops, issued 48 citations and made five DUI arrests and six driving while suspended arrests. He is commended for his excellent observation skills and awareness in his traffic investigations.

Officer Thatcher is a very motivated and assertive patrol officer. He is commended for his exemplary performance during the month of March. He truly demonstrates a concern for the citizens of Howard County and has positively impacted the quality of life in his beat.
By PFC David Proulx

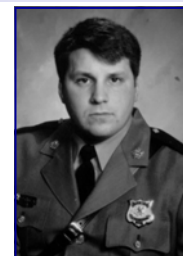
HCPD Members Attend Sniper School

PFC Tom Townsend and PFC Jason Ellis, both members of the HCPD decentralized tactical team, recently completed a four-week counter-sniper course hosted by the Baltimore County Police Department. They were trained in the many aspects of being a police counter-sniper, including concealment and camouflage, urban sniper operations, using telescopic sights, ballistics, marksmanship and land navigation. They put in over 100 hours of shooting rifles on the range and performed exercises that included moving targets, unknown distance targets, various shooting positions and stalking. This course was physically demanding, as well as mentally stressful. They were scored on their shooting daily, aware that those in the class who did not perform well would be asked to leave. There were

14 students in the class from various agencies.

PFC Townsend and PFC Ellis should be commended for each of their performances at this school.

PFC Townsend graduated third in the class, just a few tenths of a percent behind the top shooter. PFC Ellis won the "Trophy Shoot," a competitive event near the end of the program. Both officers were outstanding representatives of the HCPD. *Submitted by Sgt. Matthew Robine*



PFC Tom Townsend PFC Jason Ellis

Police Officers' Memorial Week



During the first annual Memorial Ride, the HCPD K-9 Unit salutes the motorcade at the location where HCPD Officer Randy Brightwell was killed in 1961.

During week of May 15-21, the Howard County Police Department joined the rest of the country in honoring the lives of fallen law enforcement officers throughout the

nation. These officers and their families have given the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the citizens they served. The week's events were a sober reminder of the realities of the job police do everyday, but also a day of pride and honor for our profession.

Howard County began the week with a memorial ride that went through the streets of Howard County, passing each of the places that mark where our fallen heroes, Constable Charles Weber, Deputy Frank Miller, Officer Randy Brightwell, Corporal Ted Wolf and Recruit Officer Roger Cassell, Jr., died in the line of duty. On the same day, three teams of representatives from the department ran in the annual COPS 50K run, hosted by the United States Secret Service. Later that evening, Howard County officers traveled to Washing-

ton D.C., for a ceremonial candlelight vigil at the National Law Enforcement Officer's Memorial.

In addition, the HCPD Honor Guard participated in the National Peace Officer's Memorial Day Service, which took place at the Capital Building.

On May 18, the Howard County Police Department honored our five fallen officers with a memorial service that took place at the department's Memorial Garden. Representatives from Howard County Police, Maryland State Police, the Howard County Sheriff's Office and family members and friends of the fallen officers were in attendance. Honored speakers included Chief Wayne Livesay, County Executive James Robey, Councilman David Rakes and Virginia Wolf, wife of fallen MSP Trooper Cpl. Ted Wolf. The ceremony ended a week of reflection, honor and memory for those officers who have been lost. *By PFC Jennifer Reidy*



2005 HCPD Memorial Ceremony

Explorer Post 1952 Celebrates 30 Years



The Howard County Police Department's Explorer Post 1952 celebrated its 30-year anniversary May 9. The event was attended by Chief Wayne Livesay, County Executive James Robey, Council Chair Guy Guzzone

and post members and their families. The event commemorated 30 years of Explorer Post 1952's assistance to the police department, as well as 30 years of teaching responsibility and leadership skills to youths.

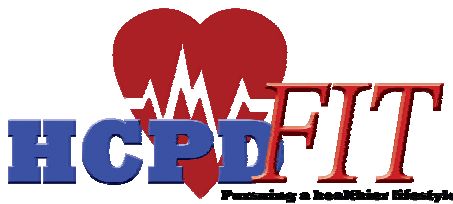
Explorer Post 1952 began in 1975 at the direction of the late Chief Mathews. Since then the Explorer Program, which is funded solely by fundraisers and jobs that the explorers work, has assisted the police department and the community by fingerprinting children at health fairs, dressing as McGruff at police events—including National Night Out—and directing traffic at

events such as the county fair.

Previous members of Post 1952 have gone on to various law enforcement positions, including Howard County Police, Baltimore City and County Police, University of Maryland police, Maryland State Police, as well as the NIH, FBI and DEA. Others who have chosen non-law enforcement routes have become leaders in both the private and public sectors. Many have said they attribute their success to the skills they were taught while participating in the Explorer Program.

The anniversary celebration was a "thank you" to the twenty-six dedicated young men and women who currently volunteer their time and energy to the Police Department by belonging to Explorer Post 1952, and the hundreds of others who have done so for so many years. *By PFC Jennifer Reidy*

HCPD FIT Offers Free Cholesterol Screening, June 15



On Wed., June 15, HCPD FIT—the police department’s wellness program—and Howard County General Hospital will offer free cholesterol screening to HCPD members. The event will take place at Northern District from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This screening will require a blood sample to ensure accurate results.

Since high blood cholesterol signals a higher risk of heart attack, it is important to have your cholesterol levels checked regularly. Too much cholesterol in the blood can lead to heart disease and stroke.

To achieve the most accurate results for the screening, you should refrain from ingesting food or liquid other than water, for 12 hours prior to your scheduled test time. For more information or to schedule a test time, please contact PFC Selvaggi through GroupWise or at x6087. Everyone is encouraged take part in this opportunity.

New Arrivals to the HCPD Family

PFC Justin Baker and his wife Katie welcomed a baby boy, Andrew Jason, on May 13 at 3:42 p.m.. Andrew weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measured 21 inches long.

PFC Jamie Myers and his wife Suanna are the proud parents of their third child, James Luke. James was born May 27 at 11:51 a.m., weighing 7 lbs., 7 oz. and measuring 22 inches long.

Congratulations to DFC Aaron Dombrowsky and his wife Karin, who on June 1 at 2:25 p.m., became the proud parents of their second child, Keegan Lance, a healthy baby boy weighing 8 lbs., 3 oz.

Officer Jason Scites and his wife Amanda welcomed a baby boy June 2 at 3:16 p.m. Jason Matthew, Jr. weighed 7 lbs., 15 oz. and measured 21 inches long. Congratulations to all!



Chaplain's Corner from Police Chaplain Michael Clancy

A Life in Balance, Keep the Faith!

You work long shifts, the demands on you are enormous and you sacrifice many aspects of your personal life that most of us take for granted. Do this long enough and you either become hardened to life around you or the stress becomes overwhelming. The people who care for you and love you also experience the same effects, yet in a very different way. We all know that police officers and their families experience a disproportionate share of life’s tragedies, so what can you do to change the odds in your favor? And yes, you can do something!

Living a life in balance is a must. Take a moment and look at your daily grind. Do it now as you read these thoughts. You should have a delicate, but proper balance between four distinct areas: work, education, family and faith. The first two are easy since they only

need you. You work to achieve your goals, to create your sense of self. You continue to learn because we all need to see the world differently each day.

Where we run into problems are in the third and fourth areas, because these two areas require someone else to help make it happen. In our family balance, it is our partner, our children and our friends. In our faith, it is God. In both areas we need to “yield unto the other” if we want a balance to occur. That takes some practice, discernment and humility. Keeping the faith allows the other three areas to make sense. Look at your balance. Each area is like the four corners of a foundation, if one is weak, then the whole thing starts to crack. Adding faith is the glue that makes it all stick together. Just little crack at first, then some crumbling, and then you may need some major repairs. Take some time today and check out your house. Is your house balanced?

Retirees' Beat from Lt. Timothy Branning, Retired, HCPD

The Association picnic was held on Sunday, June 12 at the Hinkle Farm, followed by the golf tournament on the 13. The July column will include news from both events.

As reported in the May issue, Retired Sergeant **Tim Porter** has recently been making trips to the Howard County area on family business. Fortunately, Timmy was in Howard County recently and we were able to spend some time together. **Jimmy Dawson** and I enjoyed a long lunch with Tim during which we shared many memories. Timmy stays busy operating a company that sells and maintains commercial humidifier systems. He has the franchise for the entire State of South Carolina.

Congratulations to **Brenda Williams** on her 30 years with HCPD. Most all retirees have worked with Brenda over the years. Brenda is still active with HCPD and is assigned to Internal Affairs.

Our sympathy goes to retired Officer **Gil Feldman** on the recent passing of his mother. Ms. Jessie Feldman passed away in mid-May after a brief illness.

Retired Sergeant **Denny Laumann** recently spent a few days in the hospital. We are happy to report that Denny is recovering well and back on his feet.

I recently came upon the program for the HCPD Training Academy Graduation Exercise from February 14, 1976. To show you what a difference 30 years make, take note of these facts: Seventen officers graduated on that day. None are still with HCPD. One, **Tom Colclough**, is deceased. Ten are retired. **Frank Woods** was a lieutenant and director; Sergeant **Larry Corum** was

the coordinator. Fourteen commendations were handed out during the ceremony to deserving HCPD officers. All are gone from HCPD. One, **Karl Beazley**, is deceased. Nine are retired. The list includes four then police officers, **Larry Knutson**, **Paul Hajek**, **Tim Branning**, and **Wayne White**, who went on to retire as lieutenants, and one, **Tim Porter**, who retired as a sergeant. Also receiving commendations that day were current retirees **Don Bathgate**, **Dave Miller**, and **Terry Read**.

Twenty-Eight academy staff and instructors are listed in the program. None are currently still with HCPD. Five are deceased; **Roy Rogers**, **Elmer Cameron**, **Sam Chayt**, **Angus Park**, **Mike McCampbell**, and **Roger Neubauer**. One, **Mark Colbert**, is listed as a "CSO", which in those days was similar to today's police cadet. Mark went on to retire as a sergeant. Three of those listed went on to appointed or elected positions. **Mike Chiuchiolo** was elected Howard County Sheriff; **Mike McCampbell** became a Baltimore County judge. **Jim Robey** was appointed chief of police, and after retiring was elected as the County Executive. **Bob Mathews**, who passed away a little more than a year ago, was police chief. The late Judge **James Macgill** gave the graduation address. Officer **Lee Goldman** was the class speaker. Lee, who retired as a sergeant, spent many years as an instructor and commander at the HCPD Academy. He is now the deputy director at MPTC. Captain **Jack Burke** gave the "Charge to Officers". Five people listed in the program went on to practice law. **Larry Knutson**, **Mike Reuter**, **Mike McCampbell**, **Clarke Ahlers**, and **Tommy Colclough** all became lawyers during or after their time at HCPD. I will not even begin to wonder how many of the current HCPD members were not born in 1976!

Tug-of-War Event Benefits Special Olympics

A team of Howard County's finest participated in the Maryland Department of Corrections Tug-of-War competition May 17 to benefit Special Olympics. Team Captain Mary Levy raised the \$300 entry fee by sending out a letter to family and friends. Team members included Aaron "Anchorman" Miller, Dante Peluso, Victor Broccolino, Brandy Kurti, Stacey McDaniel, Mark Reid and Bryce Buell. The team weighed in at 1408 lbs.... the lightest team in the middleweight class.

Competitions at the event consisted of the best two out of three pulls against other law enforcement agencies and corrections personnel. HCPD went into the championship round undefeated, but lost to the Howard County Detention Center's team and received a second place finish. A good time was had by all, for a good cause!

Maryland Chiefs of Police Association Offers Scholarships

Each year, the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA) offers scholarship awards to three full-time post-secondary education students enrolled in a law enforcement curriculum. Residents of the state of Maryland between the ages of 17 and 21 may compete for this prestigious \$500 award.

Selection of the scholarship recipients will be based upon scholastic achievement and community/school involvement.

Completed applications must be returned to Chief Livesay's office for review and signature. The Chief must then forward the application to the MCPA Awards Committee Chairman no later than July 31 to be considered for the upcoming school year.

Eligible nominations will be reviewed by the national Awards Committee and three winners will be selected. The award notices will be mailed to the scholarship winners and formal award presentations will be made to the recipients at a future MCPA Regional Meeting closest to the winner's home or school.

Please contact Chief Livesay's office at (410) 313-2203 for a scholarship application. Good luck to all applicants!



Office of Public Affairs
Howard County Police Dept.
3410 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ELLCOTT CITY, MD
PERMIT NO. 112

**The Beat is a publication of
the Howard County
Police Department,
Office of Public Affairs.**

**Submissions or sugges-
tions should be sent to
Sherry Llewellyn
through GroupWise or to
sllewellyn@co.ho.md.us.**

***The Beat*
Production Staff
Sherry Llewellyn
PFC David Proulx
PFC Jennifer Reidy
Rachel Miller**

**Visit us online at
www.hcpd.org.**